His Majesties
GRACIOUS
SPEECH,
Together with the
Lord Chancellors,
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
On *Thursday* the 15th of *February*, 167⅘.

Published by His Majesties special Command.

LONDON,
Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 167⅘

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

His Majesties GRACIOUS SPEECH To both Houses of PARLIAMENT,

On *Thursday* the 15th of *February*, 167$\frac{6}{7}$.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I *Have called you together again after a Long Prorogation, that you might have an opportunity to repair the Misfortunes of the Last Session, and to recover and restore the right Use and End of Parliaments.*

The time I have given you to recollect your Selves in, and to consider whither those Differences tend, which have been so unhappily managed and improved between you, is enough to Leave you without all Excuse, if ever you fall into the Like again.

I am now resolved to let the World see,

That it shall not be My fault if they be not made happy by your Consultations in Parliament.

For I declare My Self very plainly to you, That I come prepared to give you all the Satisfaction and Security in the great Concerns of the Protestant *Religion, as it is established in the Church of* England, *that shall reasonably be asked, or can consist with Christian prudence.*

And I Declare my Self as freely, That I am ready to gratifie you in a further Securing of your Liberty and Property (if you can think you want it) by as many good Laws as you shall propose, and as can consist with the Safety of the Government, without which there will neither be Liberty nor Property left to any man.

Having thus plainly told you what I am ready to do for you, I shall deal as plainly with you again, and tell you what it is I do expect from you.

First, I do expect and require from you, That all occasions of Difference between the Two Houses be carefully avoided; for else they who have no hopes to prevent your good Resolutions, will hope by this Reserve to hinder them from taking any effect.

And

And let all men Judge who is most for Arbitrary Government, they that Foment such Differences as tend to Dissolve all Parliaments; or I, that would Preserve this and all Parliaments from being made Useless by such Dissentions.

In the next place, I desire you to consider the necessity of Building more Ships, and how much all our Safeties are concerned in it.

And since the Additional Revenue of Excise will shortly expire, you that know Me to be under a great Burden of Debts, and how hard a shift I am making to pay them off as fast as I can, I hope will never deny Me the continuance of this Revenue, and some reasonable Supply to make My Condition more easie.

And that you may be satisfied how impossible it is (whatsoever some Men think) to Support the Government with Less than the present Revenue, you may at any time see the Yearly Establisht Charge; by which it will appear, That the constant and unavoidable Charge being paid, there will remain no Overplus towards the discharging those Contingencies which may happen in all King-

doms, and which have been a Conſiderable Charge to Me this laſt Year.

To conclude, I do recommend to you the Peace of the Kingdom, in the careful prevention of all Differences, The Safety of the Kingdom, in providing for ſome greater Strength at Sea, And the Proſperity of the Kingdom, in aſſiſting the neceſſary Charge and Support of the Government.

And if any of theſe good Ends ſhould happen to be diſappointed, I call God and Men to Witneſs this day, That the Misfortune of that Diſappointment ſhall not lie at My Door.

The reſt I refer to the Chancellor.

THE

THE Lord Chancellors SPEECH.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons,

BY the most Gracious Pleasure of the King, you are here again Assembled to hold another Session of this Parliament, Wherein the King expects your Advice and your Assistance, Your Advice in Matters of the highest Deliberation, Your Assistance in Matters of Extream and pressing Difficulty.

Your Deliberations will chiefly be Exercised about those Things which do belong unto your Peace, The Peace of the Church and the Peace of the State, Two Considerations of so close a Connexion between themselves, that in the very Original Writ of Summons by vertue of which you still sit here, they are

Joyntly

Joyntly Recommended to your Counsel and your Care.

The Peace of the Church is harder to preserve than the Peace of the State, For they who desire Innovations in the State, most Commonly begin the Attempt upon the Church.

And by this means it comes to pass, That the Peace of the Church is so often disturb'd, not only by those poor mistaken Souls, who deserve to be pitty'd, but by malicious and Designing Men, who deserve to be punisht. And while Things continue in this Estate, it cannot be avoided but that the Laws which are necessary to restrain the Malicious, must and will sometimes disquiet and wound those that are Weak.

What Remedies are fit for this Disease, whether the Fault be in the Laws, or in the Men, in the Men that should Obey, or in the Men that should Execute, Whether the Cure be a Work of Time and Patience, or of Zeal and Diligence, Or whether any new Expedient can be found to Secure the Ship from that Storm which the swelling of two contrary Tides seems to threaten, is wholly left to your Advice,

vice, The King hath call'd you for that End, and doubts not but your Counſels will be ſuch as ſhall tend to Safety and to Eſtabliſhment.

The Peace of the State requires as much of Your Care and Vigilance too; Our Peace at home, and Our Peace abroad.

As for that abroad, We are at this Time, Bleſſed be God for his Mercy to Us, and Bleſſed be the King for his Care of Us, in perfect Peace with all the Nations upon Earth: Such a Peace as makes Us the Envy of the Chriſtian World, and hath Enabled Us to do our ſelves Right againſt the Infidels: Such a Peace as brings with it all the fruits of Peace, and deſerves not only our Prayers for the continuance of it, but our beſt and moſt Watchful Care that nothing may be done on Our part to give it an Interruption.

But then We muſt conſider again, that Our Peace abroad will not ſubſiſt any longer than while We do maintain our Peace at home; for without this, no Kingdom can be able to Act in its full

Strength, and without that, the Friendſhip or Enmity of any Nation ceaſes to be conſiderable to its Neighbors.

Now 'tis a Great and a Dangerous Miſtake in thoſe, Who think the Peace at home is well enough preſerv'd, ſo long as the Sword is not drawn; Whereas in Truth nothing Deſerves the Name of Peace, but Unity.

Such an Unity as flows from an unſhaken Truſt and Confidence between the King and his People, from a due Reverence and Obedience to his Laws, and to his Government, from a Religious and an Awful care, not to remove the Ancient Landmarks, not to diſturb thoſe Conſtitutions which Time and Publique convenience hath ſettled, from a Zeal to preſerve the whole Frame and Order of the Government upon the old Foundations, and from a perfect Deteſtation and Abhorrency of all ſuch as are given to change. Whatever falls ſhort of this, falls ſhort of Peace too.

If therefore there be any Endeavors to renew, nay if there be not all the Endeavors that can be to Extinguiſh the Memory

mory of all former Provocations and Offences, and the Occaſions of the like for the future, If there be ſuch Diviſions as beget Great thoughts of Heart, Shall we call this Peace, becauſe it is not War, or becauſe Men do not yet take the Field? As well we may call it Health when there is a Dangerous fermentation in the Blood and Spirits, becauſe the Patient hath not yet taken his Bed.

And yet as Evident as it is that all we have or hope for depends upon the Preſervation of our Peace and Unity at home, As certain as it is that no care to preſerve it will be wanting here, Nevertheleſs it remains ſtill to be wiſht that even this very Point were no part of thoſe Difficulties we are now to ſtruggle with.

For there are many more which without your Ayd and your Aſſiſtance can never be overcome.

One is the Weakneſs of our Fleet; For Strength and Weakneſs can no otherwiſe be Judg'd of than by compariſon: And by this meaſure We may truly Judge our Fleet to be leſs Conſiderable

ble than it was, becauſe ours ſtands at a Stay, while our Neighbours round about us are improv'd.

This is an Affair wherein no Time would be Loſt, becauſe whenever we ſet about it, it will take up ſome conſiderable Time before it can be finiſht.

Another Weight there is which lies very heavy upon the Revenue, and that is the Debts which encumber it: Juſtice and Honor oblige the King not to forſake thoſe who have aſſiſted Him with their Eſtates in the Defence of the Publique. And although the Neceſſary iſſues of His Revenue, in the many new and chargeable Emergencies of State, did for a while poſtpone their ſatisfaction, Yet His Majeſty hath now gone very far in it, and hath provided for the Security and payment of an immenſe Summe, with ſuch Difficulties as none but a Juſt and Generous Prince would ever have undergone.

And now ſhould the reſt of his Revenue fail, or fail to be unloaden in ſome Degree,

Degree, the inconvenience to the Publique, and the Inſecurity of all our Affairs would quickly be too manifeſt.

One Difficulty more there is, without which all the Reſt were none, and that is the ſtrange Diffidence and Diſtruſt, which like a General Infection begins to ſpread it ſelf into, almoſt, all the Corners of the Land.

Much of this riſes from the Artifice of ill Men, who create and nouriſh all the Suſpitions which they can Deviſe; But the Cure of it lies perfectly in Your Hands, for all this will preſently Vaniſh as ſoon as Men ſhall ſee your Acquieſcence, and the fruits of it in a cheerful concurrence with His Majeſty to all thoſe good and Publique Ends which He hath now ſo Earneſtly Recommended to You.

It would be ſomewhat ſtrange, and without all Example in Story, that a Nation ſhould be twice ruin'd, twice undone, by the ſelf-ſame way and means, the ſame *Fears* and *Jealouſies*.

Will any Man that doth but give himſelf leave to Think, refuſe to Enjoy and take Comfort in the Bleſſings that are preſent, only for fear of future Changes and Alterations?

Surely 'tis enough for any Kingdom, and more than moſt Kingdoms in the World can boaſt of, to have their Affairs brought into ſuch a Condition, that they may in all Humane Probability, and unleſs it be their Own Default, continue for a Long Time Safe, and Happy.

Future Contingencies are not capable of any Certain Proſpect: A Security beyond that of Humane Probability, no Nation ever did, or ever ſhall Attain to.

If a Kingdom be Guarded by Nature againſt all Dangers from without, and then will Rely too much upon what Nature hath done for them; If a Kingdom be warn'd and caution'd againſt all Dangers from within, by former Experiences, and then will either forget, or make no uſe of thoſe Experiences; If a Kingdom

dom be Powerful in Shipping and Navigation, and then ſee their Neighbors Endeavouring to Overpower them that way, without being ſollicitous enough to Augment and Reinforce their own Naval Strength; If a Kingdom be Happy in the frequent Aſſemblies of their Great Councels, where all that is grievous may be Redreſt, and all that is wanting may be Enacted, and then will render thoſe Councels uſeleſs and impracticable, by continuing endleſs Diſtractions; Who can wonder if their Affairs ſhould begin to be leſs Proſperous, when otherwiſe, Humanely ſpeaking, and in all common Probability, their Condition would have been out of the Reach of Fortune, and their Security in a manner Impregnable.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

If the Preſaging malice of our Enemies ſhould pretend to foretell any ſuch Fate as this to befall us, the Wiſdom and the Magnanimity of this Great Councel will quickly be too hard for all their Auguries.

guries. The Honor and the Loyalty of this Auguſt and Venerable Aſſembly will leave no kind of room for any ſuch Divinations.

You that have the Happineſs to Live under ſo Excellent a Monarchy, ſo Admirable a Conſtitution and Temper of Government, You that remember what the want of this Government coſt us, and the miſerable Deſolations which attended it, have all the Motives, and are under all the Obligations that can be to Secure and advance the Intereſt of it.

The King on his Part meets you with ſo Open and ſo Full a Heart, and is ſo Abſolutely Reſolv'd and Determin'd to do all that in Him lies to Glad the Hearts of His People, that it muſt be the ſtrangeſt Infelicity in the World, if either He or His Subjects ſhould meet with any Diſappointments here.

For the King hath no Deſires but what are Publique, no Ends or Ayms which terminate in Himſelf, All His Endeavors are ſo entirely bent upon the Welfare of All His Dominions, that He doth not think

any

any man a good Subject who doth not Heartily Love his Country? And therefore let no man pass for a good Patriot, who doth not as Heartily Love and Serve his Prince.

Private men indeed are subject to be misled by Private Interests, and may Entertain some vain and slender Hopes of Surviving the Misfortunes of the Publique, But a Prince is sure to fall with it, and therefore can never have any Interests Divided from it.

To Live and Die with the King is the Highest Profession a Subject can make, and sometimes 'tis a Profession only and no more; But in a King it is an absolute Necessity, 'tis a Fate inevitable, that He must Live and Die with His People.

Away then with all the vain Imaginations of those who do about to infuse a Misbelief of the Government; Away with those ill meant Distinctions between the Court and the Country, between the Natural and the Politique Capacity. And to all who go about to perswade others

that these are two several Interests, have a Care of that Precipice to which such Principles may lead them, For the first Men that ever began to Distinguish of their Duty, never left off till they had quite Distinguisht themselves out of all their Allegiance.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The King hath so long had, and still retains such Honourable Thoughts of these Assemblies, that We ought to make it one great Part of our Business to Deserve the Continuance of His Majesties Grace and good Opinion.

Let no Contention then come near this Place, but that of a Noble Emulation who shall Serve his Country best, by well Serving of the King; Let no Passion enter here, but that of a Pious Zeal to lay hold upon all Opportunities of Promoting the Honour and Service of the Crown, till our Enemies despair of ever profiting by any Disorders amongst Us.

And

And let all who Pray for the long Life and Prosperity of the King, add their Endeavours to their Prayers, and study to prolong this Sacred Life, by giving Him all the Joys of Heart which can arise from the Demonstrations of the Lively and the Warm Affections of His People.

FINIS.